

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 3, the paragraph at line 19

The subject of the present invention is to provide a compound which is stable as a visible light active photo-catalyst having nitride bond of Ti(IV), further the object of the present invention is to provide a method for preparation of said compound. During the various considerations how to introduce a nitride bond into the compound containing Ti(IV), which has photo-catalytic activity, the inventors of the present invention found out that the introduction of nitride bond of Ti(IV) is possible when Ti(IV) contains F bond, and found out the synthesis of the compound containing Ti(IV) which has nitride bond by using compounds of TiO_aNbF_c or $\text{MeTiO}_a\text{NbF}_c$. And found that the obtained compound has a possibility to be a catalyst which is active by visible light, especially to be a catalyst which generate hydrogen or oxygen by photo splitting of water, thus the subject of the present can be accomplished. In the compounds of TiO_aNbF_c or $\text{MeTiO}_a\text{NbF}_c$, Me is an alkali earth metal such as Sr, [c] c is 0.1 to 1, [b] b is 0.1 to 1, desirably [b] $b \geq 0.3$, and [a] a is a value to be decided in relation to [b] b and [c] c.

Page 4, the paragraph at line 9:

The first one of the present invention is a photo-catalyst containing titanium fluoride nitride comprising, $\text{Ti(IV)O}_a\text{NbF}_c$ or a compound represented by $\text{MeTi(IV)O}_a\text{NbF}_c$ prepared by doping at least one metal Me selected from the group

consisting of alkali or alkaline earth metals on $\text{Ti(IV)O}_a\text{Nb}_b\text{F}_c$ (wherein, [b] b is 0.1 to 1, [c] c is 0.1 to 1 and [a] a is a value to maintain Ti(IV) and is decided in relation with [b] b and [c] c.). Desirably, the present invention is the photo-catalyst containing titanium fluoride nitride, wherein $\text{Ti(IV)O}_a\text{Nb}_b\text{F}_c$ possesses anatase structure and $\text{MeTi(IV)O}_a\text{Nb}_b\text{F}_c$ possesses perovskite to anatase structure. Further desirably the present invention is the photo-catalyst containing titanium fluoride nitride to which at least one promoter selected from the group consisting of Pt, Ni and Pd is loaded.

Page 4, the paragraph at line 20:

The second one of the present invention is a photo-catalyst for water splitting containing titanium fluoride nitride comprising $\text{Ti(IV)O}_a\text{Nb}_b\text{F}_c$ or a compound represented by $\text{MeTi(IV)O}_a\text{Nb}_b\text{F}_c$ prepared by doping at least one metal Me selected from the group consisting of alkali or alkaline earth metals on $\text{Ti(IV)O}_a\text{Nb}_b\text{F}_c$. (wherein, [b] b is 0.1 to 1, [c] c is 0.1 to 1 and [a] a is a value to maintain Ti(IV) and is decided in relation with [b] b and [c] c.). Desirably, the second one of the present invention is a photo-catalyst for water splitting containing titanium fluoride nitride wherein $\text{Ti(IV)O}_a\text{Nb}_b\text{F}_c$ possesses anatase structure and $\text{MeTi(IV)O}_a\text{Nb}_b\text{F}_c$ possesses perovskite to anatase structure. Further desirably the second one of the present invention is a photo-catalyst for water splitting containing titanium fluoride nitride to which at least one promoter selected from the group consisting of Pt, Ni and Pd is loaded.

acts by visible light. And the inventors of the present invention have continued intensive study to find out a compound which is stable under the reaction condition among these photo-catalysts, and found out that the compound composing of oxynitride containing at least one transition element can fulfill the function of the photo-catalyst which satisfy the above mentioned condition, and already proposed as the invention which dissolved said problem (JP Application 2000-256681; filed on August 28, 2000). Mostly of these compounds have perovskite-type crystalline structure, and the stabilizing effect under said photo-catalyst reaction condition is conjectured to be caused by this structural feature.

As a visible light active compound which was found out based on above mentioned conjecture, although a stable compound can be obtained among the compounds containing Ta or Nb, however, it was difficult to obtain a stable compound among the compound containing Ti(IV). Therefore, the inventors of the present invention have investigated the method how to obtain a useful compound as the visible light active photo-catalyst based on the theory of above mentioned hybridized oxynitride bonding orbital. In above mentioned consideration, the confirmation of characteristics based on above mentioned theory is considered to be useful.

The subject of the present invention is to provide a compound which is stable as a visible light active photo-catalyst having nitride bond of Ti(IV), further the object of the present invention is to provide a method for preparation of said compound. During the various considerations how to introduce a nitride bond into the compound containing Ti(IV), which has photo-catalytic activity, the inventors of the present invention found out that the introduction of nitride bond of Ti(IV) is possible when Ti(IV) contains F bond, and found out the synthesis of the compound containing Ti(IV) which has nitride bond by using compounds of $\text{TiO}_a\text{Nb}_b\text{F}_c$ or $\text{MeTiO}_a\text{Nb}_b\text{F}_c$. And found that the obtained compound has a possibility to be a catalyst which is active by visible light, especially to be a catalyst which generate hydrogen or oxygen by photo splitting of water, thus the subject of the present can be accomplished. In the compounds of $\text{TiO}_a\text{Nb}_b\text{F}_c$ or $\text{MeTiO}_a\text{Nb}_b\text{F}_c$, Me is an alkali earth metal such as Sr, c is 0.1 to 1, b is 0.1 to 1, desirably $b \geq 0.3$, and a is a value to be decided in relation to b and c.

By the way, when titanium oxide is nitrated with ammonia by the

conventional method, Ti^{3+} is generated by reducing reaction, and when nitride reaction is moderated in order to suppress the reducing reaction, it becomes difficult to introduce sufficient nitrogen into material and the synthesis of the compound containing $Ti(IV)$ which has nitride bond is impossible, and the responsibility to visible light of the material is too low to absorb the visible light of around 600nm. Accordingly, the method for synthesis of the compound containing $Ti(IV)$ which has nitride bond is an epoch-making invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The first one of the present invention is a photo-catalyst containing titanium fluoride nitride comprising, $Ti(IV)O_aN_bF_c$ or a compound represented by $MeTi(IV)O_aN_bF_c$ prepared by doping at least one metal Me selected from the group consisting of alkalis or alkali metals on $Ti(IV)O_aN_bF_c$ (wherein, b is 0.1 to 1, c is 0.1 to 1 and a is a value to maintain $Ti(IV)$ and is decided in relation to b and c.). Desirably, the present invention is the photo-catalyst containing titanium fluoride nitride, wherein $Ti(IV)O_aN_bF_c$ possesses anatase structure and $MeTi(IV)O_aN_bF_c$ possesses perovskite to anatase structure. Further desirably the present invention is the photo-catalyst containing titanium fluoride nitride to which at least one promoter selected from the group consisting of Pt, Ni and Pd is loaded.

The second one of the present invention is a photo-catalyst for water splitting containing titanium fluoride nitride comprising $Ti(IV)O_aN_bF_c$ or a compound represented by $MeTi(IV)O_aN_bF_c$ prepared by doping at least one metal Me selected from the group consisting of alkalis or alkali metals on $Ti(IV)O_aN_bF_c$. (wherein, b is 0.1 to 1, c is 0.1 to 1 and a is a value to maintain $Ti(IV)$ and is decided in relation with b and c.). Desirably, the second one of the present invention is a photo-catalyst for water splitting containing titanium fluoride nitride wherein $Ti(IV)O_aN_bF_c$ possesses anatase structure and $MeTi(IV)O_aN_bF_c$ possesses perovskite to anatase structure. Further desirably the second one of the present invention is a photo-catalyst for water splitting containing titanium fluoride nitride to which at least one promoter selected from the group consisting of Pt, Ni and Pd is loaded.

The third one of the present invention is a method for preparation of a